SPVs for hydro-electric projects

3662. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States would soon be required to float Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), before inviting bids for large hydroelectric power projects;

(b) whether the Central Government is planning to overhaul the bidding norms for hydro-electric projects, under which preparation of detiled project reports and subsequent formation of SPVs would be made mandatory for States, before inviting bids for project construction;

(c) if so, whether the proposal has been endorsed by a Group of Ministers and would form part of the new Hydro Power Policy; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government under which the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and subsequent formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) are to be a mandatory pre-requisite for inviting bids for large hydro-electric projects by the States. However, it was agreed in the meeting dated 12.12. 2007 of the Task Force on hydro project development, a sub-group of Group of Ministers, it was agreed that the respective State Government would be asked to identify and proposed implementation of a mega hydro project in their State for award through an SPV on the lines of Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs).

(c) No, Sir. Such a proposal also does not form a part of the New Hydro Policy.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

International assistance for improvement in power supply

†3663. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to receive assistance from the World Bank and any other countries, to improve the power supply in the country, particularly in Delhi is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this project would be completed and the expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The proposal for seeking assistance in respect of the Vishnugad-Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project (444 MW) located in District Chamoli, Uttarakhand has been posed to the World Bank. The proposal as approved by Public Investment Board (PIB) envisages that this project is likely to commission in 54 months from the date of investment approval at an estimated cost of Rs.2221.31 crore on December, 2006 price level. Delhi is one of the proposed beneficiary from the project.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.